UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/865
12 January 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 19

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 8 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the application of the Czech Republic and of the Slovak Republic for admission to membership in the United Nations under agenda item 19, I have been instructed by my Government to communicate to you the following:

The relations between the Principality of Liechtenstein and the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic have been strained for decades. Contrary to the expectations of the Government of Liechtenstein, a normalization of the relations between the two States could not be achieved, in particular for the following reasons:

(a) The Government of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic continued to identify itself with the decisions taken by the Czechoslovak Government in 1945, which are in contradiction to public international law and which question the sovereignty and existence of the Principality of Liechtenstein;

(b) The Government of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic refused to accord to the Principality of Liechtenstein the same treatment as to other European States concerning legal issues relating to seized property. This position is also in contradiction to the declaration made in 1990 by the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). When negotiating with the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Principality of Liechtenstein had clearly stated that it was neither demanding the restitution of nor a full compensation for seized Liechtenstein property;

(c) The Government of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic refused the compromise proposal made by the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein, that is, to submit the case to the International Court of Justice or to another neutral institution and to accept as binding the decision of such a body.

At the third meeting of the Council of CSCE, held in Stockholm in December 1992, the Chairman, in connection with the consideration of agenda item 8 (Request for admission to the CSCE as participating States), made the following statement:

> "It is understood that the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic are ready to conduct negotiations in mutual interest and on the basis of international law on any bilateral issue with the Principality of Liechtenstein which one of the sides considers to be open."

The delegation of Liechtenstein made the following interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (chap. 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations:

> "In connection with the adoption of agenda item 8 'Request for admission to the CSCE as participating States', it is the understanding of the delegation of the Principality of Liechtenstein that outstanding issues between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic do encompass nationalization of property of Liechtenstein nationals seized without compensation in the years 1945 and thereafter."

Based on the aforementioned, the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein will therefore invite the Governments of the Czech Republic and of the Slovak Republic in the near future to open negotiations on all outstanding issues in their relations with the Principality of Liechtenstein.

I should be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of the present letter as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 19.

(Signed) Claudia FRITSCHE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative